

1 **Concurrent Resolution Supporting the Transfer of Federally Managed Lands**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Raymond P. Ward

Senate Sponsor: Don L. Ipson

2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

4 This resolution is related to the disposition of federally managed lands for affordable
5 housing.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This resolution:

- 8 ▶ acknowledges that Utah's growth has intensified housing affordability challenges;
- 9 ▶ recognizes that affordable housing is critical to workforce stability and community
10 retention;
- 11 ▶ notes that unreserved lands managed by the federal government are located near existing
12 communities and infrastructure;
- 13 ▶ recognizes that limited and targeted disposition of unreserved lands may support
14 moderate income housing needs;
- 15 ▶ affirms that any land disposition should preserve the public interest and responsible land
16 stewardship;
- 17 ▶ urges Congress to allow limited use of unreserved lands near existing communities and
18 infrastructure for moderate income housing; and
- 19 ▶ encourages Congress to support land transfers or exchanges in line with responsible
20 stewardship.

21 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

22 None

23 **Other Special Clauses:**

24 None

25 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

26 WHEREAS, the state of Utah continues to experience significant population and economic
27 growth, which has intensified housing supply challenges and increased costs for
28 moderate-income households across the state;

31 WHEREAS, housing affordability impacts communities statewide and has implications for
 32 workforce availability, economic stability, and the ability of families to remain in the
 33 communities where they live and work;

34 WHEREAS, the state contains many federally managed lands, some of which are classified
 35 as unreserved land, located within or immediately adjacent to existing municipal ~~or county~~ boundaries,
 36 including near established infrastructure such as roads, water, sewer, and power
 37 systems;

38 WHEREAS, certain unreserved lands that lack a designated federal purpose may be
 39 uniquely suited, due to the location of the land, for limited, targeted consideration to address
 40 local housing needs without expanding development into remote or environmentally sensitive
 41 areas;

42 WHEREAS, strategic and narrowly tailored sales, transfers, or exchanges of unreserved
 43 lands may provide an opportunity to support the development of moderate-income housing
 44 while making efficient use of existing infrastructure and minimizing public costs; and

45 WHEREAS, careful and targeted disposition of federally managed lands can support local
 46 housing needs while preserving the broader public interest in responsible land stewardship:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
 48 Governor concurring therein, urges the United States Congress to consider authorizing limited
 49 and targeted sales, transfers, or exchanges of unreserved lands managed by the federal
 50 government for the purpose of facilitating moderate-income housing.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge that
 52 consideration be limited to unreserved lands located within or immediately adjacent to existing
 53 municipal ~~or county~~ boundaries ~~or~~ or population centers within county boundaries,
 53a or in close proximity to existing infrastructure, where
 54 development can occur in a focused and efficient manner.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage the United
 56 States Congress to allow flexibility in the form of land exchanges or transfers, where
 57 appropriate, to facilitate moderate-income housing while maintaining responsible stewardship
 58 of federally managed lands.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the members of
 60 Utah's congressional delegation.